

State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

“Our vision is to have a State that is free from any trace of unlawful discrimination.”



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U.S. LOSES CIVIL RIGHTS ICONS CONGRESSMAN JOHN ROBERT LEWIS & REVEREND CORDY TINDELL “C.T.” VIVIAN FRIDAY

Baltimore, MD – On Friday, July 17, 2020, the nation lost two giants of the American civil rights movement. Congressman John Roberts Lewis passed away at the age of 80 after his battle with cancer. Reverend Cordy Tindell “C.T.” Vivian passed away at 95 of natural causes.

Congressman Lewis and Reverend Vivian devoted their lives starting at a young age to the struggle for racial justice and equality in the 1960’s. They were both practitioners of what Congressman Lewis called “good trouble” – leaders who confronted injustice without violence. They led marches for voting rights in Selma over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. They joined the Freedom Riders in challenging segregated buses. Despite being subjected to beatings and numerous arrests during peaceful demonstrations, their resolve for a free, just, and equal society for all never yielded.

Over the decades, Congressman Lewis and Reverend Vivian spoke truth to power, continuing to serve our nation as leaders working to dismantle the lingering vestiges of racism and discrimination that remain barriers even to this day. Though we as a nation have lost two incredibly influential and important voices, we should honor their life’s work and legacies by joining viable voices demanding social justice during these transformative times. We at the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights remain committed to building upon the work and achievements of Congressman John Roberts Lewis and Reverend C.T. Vivian. May they rest in power.

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